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FLOOR DEBATE

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support this amendment, despite the fact that it might encourage some employers to put all of their employees, or the bulk or them, in the status of less than full-time employees. I don't know whether they'll do that by having a person work seven hours and 58 minutes a day, or whatever, or just designate the person part time. I'm going to support it because it establishes a very important principle, and that's that under these kinds of circumstances, when benefits are to accrue as a result of state action or favoritism, if you will, any wages that are associated with such a project must be at least a living wage. So I'm going to not extend the debate, but support this amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. If Senator Beutler would yield to questions.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure.

SENATOR SMITH: Now, I'm sorry, did you say this has had a hearing, or has not?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The concept of a minimum wage and the concept of a living wage has been presented to the Business and Labor Committee. But as far as I know, to this point in time, and I would refer the question to Senator Connealy, they have not acted upon any of the bills in committee. I also presented the living wage idea to the Revenue Committee with respect to the Job Qualities Act (sic-Quality Job Act). And they wanted to do more than what I was suggesting, and so they adopted the average Nebraska wage standard for that bill. So the concept, in one form or another, is around, has been attached, I think, to...well, I'd ask Senator Wickersham, if he's here, to...I don't know if LB 620 has been advanced yet, but I'm sure it will be, if it hasn't been.

SENATOR SMITH: But this particular concept...I mean, the wording and so forth has not had its own hearing.